Norton: State paid for controversial psychologist's testimony about gays

Associated Press

DENVER — Attorney General Gale Norton said Thursday that state funds were spent to obtain the testimony of a controversial psychologist during the Amendment 2 court challenge last year, but she didn't know the cost and the testimony was never used.

Out Front magazine, published by Denver's gay community, said this week that Norton's office paid $10,125 for Paul Cameron's testimony but pointed out that while Cameron holds a doctorate in psychology, he was expelled from the American Psychological Association in 1983 after falsifying data about gays.

He also is barred from practicing psychology in Nebraska, the only state in which he reportedly has ever been licensed to practice, the magazine reported.

Out Front had asked Norton's office to disclose how much Cameron was paid in state funds, but the office refused, and the information was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Norton is running for re-election against Democrat Dick Freese, who has criticized Norton for mismanaging her staff and budget.

The passage of Amendment 2 in November 1992 was challenged in Denver District Court, and Judge Jeffrey Bayless ruled against putting it into law. The amendment would have barred laws protecting gays from discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

When Cameron's writings about gays were referred to by witnesses during the case, plaintiffs objected, saying Cameron was not recognized as an expert.

"I know affidavits were prepared," Norton told The Associated Press, "but we did not use his testimony. It was not submitted, ultimately, as evidence."

When asked why, Norton said: "I'll just say we didn't use it."

She said Cameron was involved in the preliminary discovery process as someone "who might potentially have been used as an expert witness. He was available to the other side, for them to examine his views."

Asked about the cost for obtaining his deposition, she replied, "I don't know."

Bayless' decision to strike Amendment 2 is now before the state Supreme Court. "Right now we're waiting for a decision," Norton said. "The state court could issue it at any time; we have no way of knowing."

STATE

Ski promoters relent, return to giving seniors a free lift

By **Erin Emery**
Gazette Telegraph

Ski the Summit, which promotes and markets skiing in Summit County, announced Thursday that it will restore free skiing for seniors age 70 and older.

Earlier this year, Ski the Summit said season passes for seniors would cost $810, the same as for anyone 20 or older. In the past, season passes had been issued for a $25 processing fee.

But the organization did an about-face after Breckenridge, Keystone and Arapahoe Basin ski resorts backed off their plans to charge seniors.

On Wednesday, the three resorts, which are jointly owned, said seniors 70 and older could ski free this season. Copper Mountain had bucked the trend and said it had no intention of charging seniors. All the resorts will charge $25 for the passes.

Lillian Ross, spokeswoman for Ski the Summit, said the change in policy came "partly" because of a well-publicized outcry from senior groups.

Ski the Summit is also offering discounts to people ages 60 to 69. Through Oct. 3, the price of a season pass is $495. After that, it goes to $525.

Loveland s seeks exp

Associated Press

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"We need to b to handle that de continues to gro land general ma Abrahamson.

The expansion east on both side state 70 at the e the Eisenhower

Snow, ice close mountain road

Associated Press

ESTES PARK — Snow and ice closed Trail Ridge Road for several hours Thursday in Rocky Mountain National Park before plows reopened the nation's highest continuous highway

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